

12-3-1900

Letter from George S. Pratt, New York, New York,
to Anne Whitney, Boston, Massachusetts, 1900
December 3

George S. Pratt

Wellesley College Archives

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OFFICE OF THE
CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGEL,
NEW YORK.

164 SAINT NICHOLAS AVENUE.



DEC 4
1900

advice! - unknown of the

circumstances or not appearing

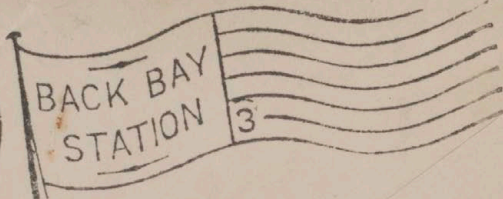
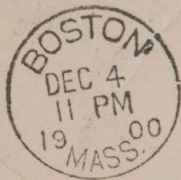
them - Dec 4 - 1900

after visit &

interview here with

Shepard & Hunt

Miss Anne Whitney
"The Charlesgate"
Beacon Street
Boston Mass.



REV GEORGE S. PRATT, RECTOR,
164 SAINT NICHOLAS AVE.CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGEL,
NEW YORK.NEW CHURCH TO BE ON SAINT NICHOLAS
AVE., BET. 114TH AND 115TH STREETS.

Dec. 31 1900.

Dear Aunt Anne.

Your letter of yesterday's date came this morning and I can assure you at once that certainly, I shall not go ahead in any course which will be against your final judgment or approval.

In a letter to Mr. Stowe since my return from Boston, I reiterated my position in that particular and made it as clear as possible, that my relations to the family were such as that I should not have made any appeal for help in this enterprise and that I should not, now care to receive it, except with the cordial approval of the family - that I should not feel called upon to place myself in a position so embarrassing, for the sake of any supposed good that might result, however deeply I might be personally interested with the good.

I insisted that you as the sole surviving member of Mr. Whitney's immediate family had a recognized and

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SUNDAY SERVICES AT 11 A. M., IN THE
CRYPT OF THE CATHEDRAL OF
SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE

REV. GEORGE S. PRATT, RECTOR,
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NEW YORK.

NEW CHURCH TO BE ON SAINT NICHOLAS
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legitimate sphere of influence in the matter, and that your approval and the approval of the family would be the best justification which the Trustees could hope to have for any of their acts in fulfillment of the trust.

It is highly important that in whatever proper action you may take to get an accounting and to get Mr. Feltus reinstated as a trustee, you should keep to a judicial temper and that in particular you should not fail to keep in such touch with Mr. Stowe as that will preserve intact your influence with him.

I think that we ought frankly to recognize the fact, that up to this point we have no ground whatever for concluding that Mr. Stowe has done any wrongful act. The technical error of confusing the functions of executor and trustee cannot fairly be so considered. And more particularly as

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and distributions as he has made in this way, have been made with the general approval of the persons most interested, and are such as would be immediately ratified and confirmed by the trustees on their appointment.

I felt like suggesting to you before I left on that Friday night, that in case Mr. Flinn was appointed as a trustee, and should desire to delegate some one to act for him, that it would be desirable for him to select some person who would have a natural interest in carrying out the benevolent provisions of Uncle Edward's will, as faithfully and as speedily as possible, and that it occurred to me that Mr. Stone (Charlie) was just the available person for that duty. I do not know whether or not he is a persona grata to Mr. Stow, but I believe that he has that good sense and tact combined with frank and generous consideration for the rights of

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his associates, as would make him such. Nothing could be more unfortunate or would more surely thwart the intentions expressed in the will than to have the trustees start out with antagonisms - and so almost inevitably tie up the whole estate until one of them should die.

In the matter of getting the inventory of the estate, getting Mr. Flint appointed, and securing an accounting and the whole matter then over and of legal counsel and service, but it seems to me that it would be a grave mistake to let the matter get too far beyond you and especially to let it get turned over to lawyers. There would be no end of technical correctness, but years would go by and the estate would be wasted in the effort.

Aunt Carrie and Mr. Storer, will undoubtedly be appointed trustees and Mr. Flint, let us hope, will also be reinstated or appointed - but in

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indispensable condition of any real fulfillment of the intention and provisions of the will is that there shall be conciliation and unity.

You have a most important part to play in this matter, and I have no question but that you are equal to the occasion, and I think that it will help you in your office, to read carefully over again that last will and testament, see what was aimed at - the bestowing of his goods for the promotion of worthy causes and for the betterment of society, and somewhat ignoring other considerations, see how best you can aid in carrying out of these intentions.

I seem to have a sort of sermonic strain - I really have no ground for preaching to you - and no desire to do so - I expect

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to are Mr. Stowe tomorrow as
he will be in New York, but I
shall heed your admonition, and
as I said at the start, I certainly
shall not try to go forward in any
course which does not have your
approval.

Most faithfully—Most Affectionately
George,